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August 16, 1962

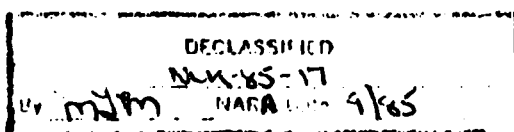
Dear Mr. Chancellor:

I am taking advantage of Ambassador Dowling's return to Bonn to send you through him my personal greetings and warm good wishes. I know how busy you have been in recent weeks with negotiations on matters of immense significance for the future of Europe. We have followed developments closely and with great interest.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the helpful attitude which your Government has taken on the matter of United States poultry imports to Germany. It is not often that Heads of Government get involved in such subjects. However, this was important in the United States, and I am deeply grateful for the assistance given by you and your colleagues in Bonn.

In following the press and other reports related to recent changes in United States military assignments, I have obtained the impression that you may have some concern at what these might seem to imply. As Ambassador Dowling will tell you, the new appointments were made solely in the interest of the most effective employment of our senior military talents, and do not constitute or presage in any way changes in our strategic policy and commitments, with which you are familiar. The statements by Secretaries Rusk and McNamara at the last NATO Ministerial Meeting at Athens, supplemented by Ambassador Finletter's June 15th statement in the North Atlantic Council, fully express our policy and commitments. I was particularly pleased to hear from Secretary

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Rusk of the warm reception given to our initiatives by his German colleagues at the Athens Meeting. In general, we have solicited and we welcome Allied views on the estimates and positions advanced by the United States.

In these and other statements the United States has repeatedly expressed its determination to maintain an adequate level of nuclear weapons in Europe. Indeed, we have repeated to NATO the extent to which the level of effectiveness of these weapons will be raised. This reflects the fact that there has been no lessening of our determination to strengthen the NATO nuclear deterrent.

As you know, the United States and the Alliance as a whole agreed at Athens on the guidelines for the use of the nuclear deterrent, and the United States undertook a continuing sharing of information on nuclear armament.

If, after your discussion with Ambassador Dowling, or at any future time, there are particular questions in your mind as to our policy, please do not hesitate to communicate with me, either through Ambassador Dowling or directly. The candor with which we speak to each other, and which reflects our mutual trust and confidence, is a great asset, and we should make full use of it.

At a time when we are confronted by the possibility of Soviet action against our position in Berlin which will test the courage and determination of the West, we must make every effort to avoid misunderstandings. I know

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you feel the same way. The basic friendship and unity of interest between our two countries has been one of the most important facts of the post-war period, and I am certain that this will continue to be a fact in the future.

Sincerely,

151 John F. Kennedy

His Excellency  
Dr. Konrad Adenauer  
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Bonn

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